# PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project
Brief Description	The purpose of the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project (Project) is to increase management efficiency of cattle and water resources on the Pete's Valley Ranch while improving watershed health and providing benefits to wildlife in an upper reach of the Susan River Watershed in Lassen County, California. The Project includes restoration of 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek and approximately 50 acres of wetlands and wet meadows. Specifically, 10 check dams will be resurfaced and regraded, and Pete's Creek will be restored to a historic channel. Connection of the stream to its floodplain will restore the form and function to a historic condition. The desired result will be a self maintaining stream where energy from peak flows are dissipated across a broad, well vegetated wetland surface. Returning the stream to a state mimicking what nature designed reduces maintenance needs and increases ecological integrity in the watershed. Direct outcomes of the project include restored groundwater hydrology; improved forage for livestock production; and public benefits through enhanced wet meadow and wetlands habitat for Greater sage grouse, migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and a variety of other wildlife species.
Total Requested	198,225.00
Amount	00,000,00
Other Fund Proposed	92,922.00
Total Project Cost	291,147.00
Project Category	Site Improvement/Restoration
Project Area/Size	685
Project Area Type	Acres
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results	
Restoration	

Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Resource Management	
Water Quality	

County			
Lassen			
Sub Region			
Sub Region North			

# PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Mr. Ted Koch,
Title	State Supervisor
Organization	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office
Primary Address	1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, , , Reno, NV, 89502-7147
Primary Phone/Fax	775-861-6300 Ext.
Primary Email	ted_koch@fws.gov

# PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

**Project Location** 

Address: 9 miles North from Intersection of county road A27 and Belfast Road, Lassen County, 96130, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, , Reno, NV, 89502-7147 United

States

Water Agency: Waterboard Latitude: 40.566372 Longitude: -120.428696

Congressional District: n/a Senate: n/a Assembly: n/a Within City Limits: No

City Name:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Grant Application Type

# PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

# Other Grant Project Contacts

Name: Susan Abele,

Day-to-Day Responsibility 7758616346 Project Role:

Phone:

Phone Ext:

E-mail: susan\_abele@fws.gov

# UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
CEQA Documentation
NEPA Documentation
Detailed Budget Form
Restrictions/Agreements
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Long Term Management Plan

Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects
Site Plan - Only Site Improv. or Restoration Proj.

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Instructions for use of this form:

- 1. Scroll down and check the box indicating completion of requested information in the appropriate format.
  - · You can move among the boxes by using your mouse or the "Tab" key.
- 2. When you have completed the form, print and sign at the bottom.

Please note: Adobe® Reader® does not allow you to save your work. It is very important that you print out your form immediately after completing it.

# Appendix B1

### **Full Application Checklist**

Project Name: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project EGID#: 72	20_
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Applicant: United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

- Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications 1. Completed Application Checklist (EFN: Checklist.pdf) 2. Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc or .docx) 3. V Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: fapi.doc or.docx) 4. Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: authorization.doc or .docx) 5. Varrative Descriptions - Submit a single document (maximum 10 pages, Arial 12 pt font, 1 inch margins) that includes each of the following narrative descriptions (EFN: Narrative doc or .docx) a. Detailed Project Description Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location. Purpose, etc. Project Summary
  Environmental Setting b. Workplan and Schedule c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements - Category One projects only d. Organizational Capacity e. Cooperation and Community Support f. Long Term Management and Sustainability g. Performance Measures 6. Supplemental and Supporting documents
- - a. CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form (EFN: CEQAform.doc or .docx) ✓ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf)

	Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx)	
C.	Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and – Çategory One projects only	Agreements, as applicable
	Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: RestAgree.pdf)	
	Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: RegPermit	(RestAgree and RegPermit.pdf
d.	Cooperation and Community Support	
	Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.doc, .docx or .pdf)	
e.	Long-Term Management and Sustainability	
f.	Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf) Maps and Photos	
1.	Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)	
	Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel N	Jumber(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
	Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)	(2) (2) (2)
	Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: Photo.jp	og, .gif)
g.	Additional submission requirements for Conservation lapplications only	Easement Acquisition
	Acquisition Schedule (EFN: acqSched.doc,.docx,.rtf,.pdf)	
	Willing Seller Letter (EFN: WillSell.pdf)	
	Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: Appraisal.pdf)	
	Conservation Easement Language (EFN: CE.pdf)	
	Third Party Transfer Acknowledgment Letter (if a	ipplicable) (EFN: Transfer.pdf)
h.	Additional submission requirements for Site Improvemapplications only	ent/Restoration Project
	Land Tenure Documents – attach only if docume	entation was not included
	with Pre-application (EFN: Tenure.pdf)	That is not included
	Site Plan (EFN: SitePlan.pdf)	
N/A	Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgmnt.pdf)	
	y that the information contained in the Application, inc	luding required
attach	ments, is accurate.	
00	Carrel //w/	October 15, 2012
Signed		Date
Edwar	d T. Koch, State Supervisor	
Name	and Title (print or type)	

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	Site Plan	37
	<ul> <li>Leases or Agreements – There are no other leases or agreements for the Pete's Valley Ranch that would affect the project lands or future operation and maintenance thereof.</li> </ul>	NA

Instructions for use of this form: 1. Scroll down and check the box indicating completion of requested information in the appropriate format. • You can move among the boxes by using your mouse or the "Tab" key. 2. When you have completed the form, print and sign at the bottom. Please note: Adobe® Reader® does not allow you to save your work. It is very important that you print out your form immediately after completing it. **Appendix B2 Project Information Form EGID#** 720 **PROJECT NAME** (Limit name to 10 words or less) Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project **APPLICANT NAME** (Legal name, address, and zip code) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502-7147 **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Refer to Sec. IV. 5a in the GAP. Has the project description been updated from the project description submitted with the Pre-Application form? (Choose One) SAME UPDATED **CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL GENERAL PLAN** Is this project consistent with the appropriate jurisdiction's (city/county) general plan? ✓ Yes No (If not, explain why not.) WILLIAMSON ACT STATUS (for conservation easement acquisition projects only) Is the project enrolled in a Williamson Act contract with the local county?  $\square$  Yes  $\square$  No If yes, what is the expiration date of the contract? FUNDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION SNC Grant Request \$ 198,225 Check if SNC is the sole funder of this project PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING Name and title – type or print Phone Email Address ☑ Mr. (Edward) Ted Koch, ted\_koch@fws.gov 775-861-6311 ☐ Ms. State Supervisor PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT (Only include this information if different from pre-application submittal) Phone Email Address Name and title – type or print Mr.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRE with Email address is REQUIRED)	ECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION (At least one entry
Name: Martin J. Nichols	Phone Number: 530-251-8333
Email Address: mnichols@co.lassen.ca.us	
Name: Julie Morgan	Phone Number: 530-251-8333
Email Address: jmorgan@co.lassen.ca.us	
NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGEN with Email address is REQUIRED)	CIES) CONTACT INFORMATION (At least one entry
Name: Rob Tucker	Phone Number: 530-542-5400
Email Address: RTucker@waterboards.ca.gov	
Name:	Phone Number:
Email Address:	
Please identify the appropriate project category (Choose One – should be the same as the category identified	
☑ Category One Site Improvement	Category Two Pre-Project Activities
☐ Category One Conservation Easement Acquisiti	_
	-
Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition	Select one primary Site Improvement/Conservation Easement
Acquisition	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable
	Improvement/Conservation Easement
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres Total Acres: 50 acres* SNC Portion (if different):	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  Stream Restoration/Protection
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres Total Acres: 50 acres*	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  Stream Restoration/Protection  Management Practices Changes
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres Total Acres: 50 acres* SNC Portion (if different): Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1.3 mi*	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  Stream Restoration/Protection  Management Practices Changes  Natural Resource Protection
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Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres  Total Acres: 50 acres*  SNC Portion (if different):  Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1.3 mi*  SNC Portion (if different):  *active habitat enhancement/restoration For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only  Appraisal Included	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  ☑ Stream Restoration/Protection ☐ Management Practices Changes ☐ Natural Resource Protection ☐ Infrastructure Development/Improvement ☐ Conservation Easement
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres  Total Acres: 50 acres*  SNC Portion (if different):  Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1.3 mi*  SNC Portion (if different):  *active habitat enhancement/restoration For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only  Appraisal Included  Will submit appraisal by  Does the applicant intend to transfer the easem	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  ☑ Stream Restoration/Protection ☐ Management Practices Changes ☐ Natural Resource Protection ☐ Infrastructure Development/Improvement ☐ Conservation Easement  ent to a third party? ☐ Yes ☐ No Yes ☐ No If yes, please attach a letter from
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres  Total Acres: 50 acres*  SNC Portion (if different):  Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1.3 mi*  SNC Portion (if different):  *active habitat enhancement/restoration For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only  Appraisal Included  Will submit appraisal by  Does the applicant intend to transfer the easem  If yes, is the third party organization known?	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  ☑ Stream Restoration/Protection ☐ Management Practices Changes ☐ Natural Resource Protection ☐ Infrastructure Development/Improvement ☐ Conservation Easement  ent to a third party? ☐ Yes ☐ No Yes ☐ No If yes, please attach a letter from
Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres  Total Acres: 50 acres*  SNC Portion (if different):  Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1.3 mi*  SNC Portion (if different):  *active habitat enhancement/restoration For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only  Appraisal Included  Will submit appraisal by  Does the applicant intend to transfer the easem If yes, is the third party organization known? this organization documenting their willingness to a	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  Stream Restoration/Protection Management Practices Changes Natural Resource Protection Infrastructure Development/Improvement Conservation Easement  ent to a third party? Yes No Yes No If yes, please attach a letter from ssume the long term management of the project.
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Acquisition Project Area: 685 acres  Total Acres: 50 acres*  SNC Portion (if different):  Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): 1.3 mi*  SNC Portion (if different):  *active habitat enhancement/restoration For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only  Appraisal Included  Will submit appraisal by  Does the applicant intend to transfer the easem If yes, is the third party organization known? this organization documenting their willingness to a	Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable  ☑ Stream Restoration/Protection ☐ Management Practices Changes ☐ Natural Resource Protection ☐ Infrastructure Development/Improvement ☐ Conservation Easement  ent to a third party? ☐ Yes ☐ No Yes ☐ No If yes, please attach a letter from sume the long term management of the project.  Select one primary Pre-Project deliverable ☐ Permit ☐ Condition Assessment



# **United States Department of the Interior**

# Pacific Southwest Region FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234 Reno, Nevada 89502

Ph: (775) 861-6300 ~ Fax: (775) 861-6301



October 15, 2012

Jim Branham, Executive Officer Sierra Nevada Conservancy 11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205 Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham;

Subject: Authorization to apply for funds through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is an agency of the United States Government. Our mission is "working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." Periodically, we have opportunities to enhance our activities towards achieving our conservation mission through outside funding sources. Upon Regional Director approval, we are able enter into reimbursable agreements with our partners as a mechanism for accomplishing these activities. This letter is to state our authorization to apply for funding through Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Koch State Supervisor



### **Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project: Narrative Description**

#### a. Project Description

### **Project Summary**

The purpose of the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project (Project) is to increase management efficiency of cattle and water resources on the Pete's Valley Ranch while improving watershed health and providing benefits to wildlife in an upper reach of the Susan River Watershed in Lassen County, California. The Project includes restoration of 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek and approximately 50 acres of wetlands and wet meadows. Specifically, 10 check dams will be resurfaced and regraded, and Pete's Creek will be restored to a historic channel. Connection of the stream to its floodplain will restore the form and function to a historic condition. The desired result will be a self maintaining stream where energy from peak flows are dissipated across a broad, well vegetated wetland surface. Returning the stream to a state mimicking what nature designed reduces maintenance needs and increases ecological integrity in the watershed.

Direct outcomes of the project include restored groundwater hydrology; improved forage for livestock production; and public benefits through enhanced wet meadow and wetlands habitat for Greater sage grouse, migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and a variety of other wildlife species.

### **Environmental Setting**

Pete's Creek is primarily a spring-fed stream spanning 14 miles through sagebrush shrublands and is a tributary to Willow Creek in the Susan River Watershed. Over three decades ago, a previous landowner manipulated the system in order to create standing pools to encourage use by waterfowl. This failed attempt to create habitat for waterfowl resulted in a series of 10 check dams along 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek. This disruption has resulted in an ecological departure of the stream and its associated wetland and wet meadows. As a result, there is a lack of native wetland vegetation and presence of undesirable, invasive plant species (e.g., *Cirsium* arvense/Canada thistle). Currently, natural processes, form, and function are not present along this portion of the stream which contributes to degradation of watershed health.

Pete's Valley Ranch is an active cattle ranch with approximately 1,600 acres of deeded land (i.e., private ownership) along seven miles of Pete's Creek. The ranch is a mix of irrigated pastures, wetlands, wet meadows, riparian, and sagebrush upland systems. Pete's Valley serves as summer grounds for cow-calf pairs for the Ranch's organic, grass-fed beef operation. The Ranch sits among approximately 30,000 acres of public grazing allotments managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The Ranch manages cattle on their private land and public allotments from April – October, and are the primary land steward of this upper reach of the Susan River Watershed.

The Ranch has participated in multiple programs to improve the conditions of the ranch for their cattle and for the watershed. Protection measures include enrollment of 1,300 acres into the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Grasslands Reserve Program easement program, a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and perpetual protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses. Watershed improvement projects include livestock exclusion fencing of Pete's Creek on the lower portion of the ranch to promote recovery of the creek, installation of water troughs to provide livestock water off stream, and removal of approximately 100 acres of juniper that had encroached into sagebrush systems (i.e., sage grouse habitat).

The Project is consistent with goals identified in the Lassen County General Plan for 'conservation of productive agricultural lands' (Goal L-16) and 'protection and enhancement of important wildlife habitats' (Goal L-22).

Pete's Valley is within primary habitat that has been identified for sage grouse, a species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Sage grouse require a broad array of habitats for different stages in their lives, all which are provided by the Pete's Valley Ranch and surrounding landscape. Lassen County lost hundreds of thousands of acres of sagebrush and associated systems to wildfire this past summer, making conservation and habitat enhancement efforts along Pete's Creek more important than ever.

#### Project Goals

Goal 1: Natural Resource Protection and Restoration

Improve groundwater hydrology (e.g., increased water retention of the wet meadow and wetland, raised water table, and delivery of more water to lower portions of Pete's Valley Ranch) which will provide benefits to wildlife and overall watershed health.

Goal 2: Resource (livestock) management - Increased site productivity Improve operations of the Pete's Valley Ranch through improvements in site productivity, providing cattle access to clean water, and increasing the flexibility for managing cattle.

#### Scope of Work

The two major components of the Project include implementing conservation practices for livestock management and active restoration of Upper Pete's Creek and its associated wet meadows and wetlands.

Livestock management

Initially, approximately two miles of fencing (10,560 feet) will be constructed in order to facilitate grazing management to meet cattle production and conservation objectives within the area. Wildlife friendly fencing specifications will be utilized and new fences will be marked with fence tags to reduce collisions by Greater sage grouse, a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act, which are abundant in the area.

Because cattle will have reduced access to Pete's Creek after fencing, offsite water will be developed in the adjacent uplands. Benefits of this practice include increased flexibility in managing grazing within wet meadows and cleaner drinking water for the cattle.

### Restoration of Upper Pete's Creek and associated meadows

In June 2012, the landowner and PFW Program coordinator visited the Project area with StreamWise, a consultant from Mount Shasta, California, that specializes in stream assessment and restoration. A preliminary restoration design has been developed by StreamWise that entails returning Pete's Creek to its natural channel along 1.3 miles and restoration of 50 acres of wet meadows and wetlands within the project area. Ten check dam structures spread semi-evenly across the project area will be removed and revetments will be placed at key stress locations. Revegetation efforts in disturbed areas will include planting willow seedlings, reseeding with meadow forbs and grasses, and mulching.

## b. Workplan and Schedule

		Year 1 (2013)				Year 2 (2014)				Yrs 3- 10	
Project Deliverables	Mar- Apr	May- Jun	Jul- Aug	Sep- Oct	Nov- Dec	Mar- Apr	May- Jun	Jul- Aug	Sep- Oct	Nov- Dec	May- Jun
Fencing - installation											
SNC Agreement Start											
Water developments											
Road maintenance											
Complete design											
Pre- monitoring											
Earthwork											
Revegetation											
Post- Monitoring											
Progress Report											
Final Report											
Project Completion											

The major tasks of the Upper Pete's Valley Restoration project include:

• **Fencing**: Fencing will meet wildlife friendly specifications and be marked with tags to reduce collisions by Greater sage grouse. Fencing is the first major step

- of the project because of the importance of managing cattle in the stream and associated riparian area during and after restoration efforts. (March-April 2013)
- Water developments: Currently, cattle have unrestricted access to Pete's Creek for water. Once the fence is constructed, cattle will need an alternative water source. Three water troughs will be installed, two of which will be connected to each other by polyethylene plastic water pipe. A solar pump will deliver water to the first trough in the system that will, in turn, gravity feed water to the second trough. Overflow from this trough will be returned back to Pete's Creek via water pipe. The third trough is on the opposite (east) side of Pete's Creek and will be gravity fed water collected by an instream water collection device. (May-June 2013)
- Road maintenance: The Project area is in a remote location that is accessed by rocky, dirt roads, a portion of which will require maintenance in order to facilitate machinery access for restoration earthwork. (May-June 2013)
- Complete design: A concept project design has been developed by StreamWise for earthwork to return Pete's Creek to a historic channel and regrade 10 check dams. Once a final survey of the project area is complete, the specifications for the project will be finalized. (May-June 2013)
- Earthwork: Includes removal and grading of 10 check dams along 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek. Work will be completed using a track excavator and wheeled loader and, potentially, a D-5 Caterpillar bulldozer. Existing check dams will be regraded and Pete's Creek will be returned to its historic channel in order to return form and function to the landscape. Earthwork will be conducted between July and October (2013), with the start date being determined by site conditions (i.e., drier time of year which will be dictated by spring precipitation). Upon completion of earthwork, revegetation efforts will commence and includes planting of willows and seeding native vegetation within the project area.

Other tasks that are a part of the project include:

- Monitoring: Pre-project monitoring will entail establishing photopoints and documenting existing vegetation via vegetation transects (May 2013). Post-project monitoring will include documenting completion of earthwork (October 2013), photopoints (May 2014 and at least every other May through May 2022, expiration of landowner agreement with FWS), and vegetation transects to evaluate response of plant community to restoration activities (May 2014 and possibly, May 2015).
- **Progress Reports**: 6-Month Progress Reports will be filed on schedule to Sierra Nevada Conservancy through the term of the agreement.

 Project Completion and Final Report: Upon project completion, a Final Report will be submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (anticipated December 2014).

# c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements Restrictions/Agreements

There are no property restrictions or encumbrances that could adversely impact project completion. The landowner has signed a Landowner Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that includes a written commitment to provide access for completing project work and necessary follow-up through the term of the FWS-Landowner agreement (September 2022).

### Regulatory Requirements/Permits

- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE): Because the project activities are to be conducted on private land in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding wetland enhancement, restoration, or establishment agreement between the landowner and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project activities are authorized by an ACOE Nationwide 27 Permit (Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities). Conditions for federal permittees include providing the district engineer with appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with Secion 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act by submitting a letter from State Historic Preservation Office regarding this project. Once we receive this letter, we will provide the required information to the ACOE district engineer.
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board): Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification). Upon receipt of a certified CEQA document (required with application for certification), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will commence the application process for Certification.
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): On October 9, 2012, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service archaeologist conducted a site visit and survey of the project area. No sites of concern were documented. Currently, a report is being developed and when complete, will be submitted to SHPO.
- California Department of Fish and Game (DFG): Under the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, DFG will receive Notification with associated fees from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the project ('1600 permit'). Coordination with DFG has been initiated and a site visit with a DFG wildlife biologist was conducted on October 10, 2012.

# d. Organizational Capacity

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (i.e., applicant) is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's habitat restoration cost-sharing program for private landowners. In 1987, the program was established to provide technical and financial assistance to conservation minded farmers, ranchers and other private (nonfederal and nonstate) landowners who wish to restore fish and wildlife habitat on their land. Developing and implementing habitat restoration and ranch improvement projects with private landowners is what the applicant performs on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, we believe we bring unique expertise to successfully complete this project proposed for funding support by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Preservation of Agricultural and Ranch Lands Grant Program.

#### StreamWise

StreamWise is a consultant with demonstrated commitment to science-based restoration that mimics the natural processes, form, and function of stream ecosystems. Their work is based on understanding the historic, self-maintaining conditions and native vegetation that lend stability, biologic diversity, and aesthetic quality to the channel form. StreamWise has a successful record of working with the private sector and public agencies to establish adaptive management guidelines for the ongoing assessment and management of restored stream systems. StreamWise has completed multiple stream restoration projects in California, Nevada, and Oregon. More details on specific projects they have completed can be found on their website (http://www.streamwise.com/).

### Pete's Valley Ranch

Pete's Valley Ranch is part of a multi-generational family ranching operation that has produced cattle in northern California over the past 150 years. They have been recognized numerous times for having implemented practices aimed at protecting and improving their land. In addition to their demonstrated land ethic, they posses equipment, materials, and labor expertise that are an integral part the proposed project. Their substantial involvement in implementing conservation practices on their ranches has resulted in long term, on-the-ground successes. For these reasons, we believe they are an ideal partner for this project and the Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program.

### e. Cooperation and Community Support

The applicant has worked in coordination with the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District in the development of this project. The RCD is serving as the CEQA lead and will continue to be a primary partner on the project, if funded. The RCD coordinates the Susan River Watershed Group, and the applicant presented information on the project proposal to the group at their September 20, 2012 meeting in Susanville,

California. In addition, the applicant has worked with the local sage grouse working group (i.e., Buffalo Skedaddle Working Group) in project development and ensuring it addresses priority actions identified in the Buffalo Skedaddle Population Management Unit Conservation Plan which was a developed collaboratively by a diverse group of government and nongovernmental representatives.

The applicant has worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management on project development (BLM) and will continue to do so through project implementation. A small portion of the proposed fenceline is on lands administered by the BLM as well as some of the road maintenance. In addition, the applicant has worked closely with the local and state office staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in project development and has taken NRCS staff on multiple site visits. Pete's Valley Ranch has a long history of working with NRCS who has developed a conservation plan with the ranch and provided assistance for multiple projects that have been implemented.

Letters of support are included in this application from the following:

- Jack Hanson, Lassen County Board of Supervisors
- Brian Ehler, California Department of Fish and Game
- Dave Smith, Intermountain West Joint Venture

### f. Long Term Management and Sustainability

The Upper Pete's Creek Restoration project has been designed in a manner that the stream will be restored to a natural, self-sustaining condition. Removal of the check dams and reestablishment of Pete's Creek in a historic channel will restore floodplain function and energy from peak flows will be dissipated across a broad, well vegetated wetland surface.

Future condition of the project area will be influenced by how cattle are managed in the area. Therefore, the project design incorporates fencing and providing off-site (i.e., off stream) water sources which will allow for adequate post-restoration activity recovery time and for long-term management of the area.

Upon reestablishment of the native vegetation and stream function of Pete's Creek (1-2 years post project implementation), the Ranch will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), likely in coordination with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service, to develop a grazing plan for the fenced in riparian area. When a grazing management system is implemented, objectives will be set (e.g., minimum stubble height of grass) and cattle will be managed to stay within these objectives. The FWS will work with the Ranch to set grazing objectives that are sustainable for both the operation

and the ecosystem and monitor utilization in years subsequent to project implementation.

Currently, the landowner and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have an existing signed agreement through 2022. During the term of this agreement, the FWS will continue to monitor the project on an annual basis and assist with any unforeseen adjustments that are a result of sources outside of the landowner's control.

#### g. Performance Measures

### 1. Number of People Reached

The development of this project has been in concert with local partners, many who have already toured the project area. The Ranch has a history of outreach and is very open to discussing their agricultural and conservation practices with interested parties. Upon completion, there will likely be multiple tours to share information on outcomes and lessons learned. Therefore, 'number of people reached' can be reported as a performance measure.

- 2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada
  The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pete's Valley Ranch are contributing financial
  and in-kind resources to the project. The final amount of leveraged resources will be
  calculated by the applicant.
- 3. Number and Type of Jobs Created

The restoration work along Pete's Creek will be performed by a private consultant and provide employment opportunities that can be quantified. Temporary work will be provided to equipment operators and the project will contribute to the continued operation of StreamWise, a well-established full time stream restoration consultant.

- 4. Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities
  One objective of the project is to improve livestock forage availability for cattle.
  Livestock stocking rates will be the measure for 'improved economic activity' since these are benefits to the Ranch operation. Once the vegetation has established after restoration activities, a grazing plan will be developed which will set cattle numbers and a rotation schedule for grazing within the project area.
- 5. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored Pre-project surveys will document the location of the current channel and identify historic channel(s). Post-implementation, the route of the channel will be remapped (i.e., linear feet recalculated) and monitored for project effectiveness. The project

proposes to restore (i.e., earthwork) and protect (i.e., fencing and grazing management) the stream within the project area.

### Acres of Land Improved or Restored

The acres of wetlands and wet meadows within the project area have been calculated using satellite imagery. Vegetation transects will be completed pre- and post- project implementation to document the composition of plant species. After Project implementation, we anticipate restoration in the groundwater hydrology resulting in a vegetation community trending towards being dominated by wetland dependent plants, inferring increases in water availability to these plant communities. Benefits include a reduction in invasive plant species currently present within the meadows (e.g., Canada thistle, cheatgrass).

The project area is within priority habitat identified for sage grouse. As mentioned previously, wildfires in Lassen County this past summer eliminated hundreds of thousands of acres of sage grouse habitat. Habitat restoration and protection efforts such as these are now a very high priority for local wildlife and land management agencies as well as private ranchers relying upon an ecologically intact landscape for their livestock operations.

### h. Budget Narrative

The Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project has financial commitment from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pete's Valley Ranch. Funds and in-kind services outlined in Section 3 of the detailed budget form ('Other Project Contributions') total \$92,922 and are secured. If granted the requested amount of \$198,225 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Project will be ready for immediate implementation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has committed \$41,092 in resources and funding to cover personnel expenses for development, management, and monitoring of project; travel to and from project site; fencing materials; water system design; and application fees for required permits.

Pete's Valley Ranch has committed \$51,830 in funds, materials, and in-kind services to the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project. Materials include rock, juniper, and fencing. The Ranch will complete installation of fencing and water system. In addition, the Ranch will cover their travel expenses to and from the project site.

### SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

SECTION ONE				Pro		Breakdo		
					Year	Year	Year	
		Unit	Total	Year One	Two	Three	Four	
Direct Costs	Units	Cost	Cost	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	(2016)	Total
*Complete project design								
specifications	5	\$1,050	\$5,250	\$5,250				\$5,250
*Project revision and								
consultation	1	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050				\$1,050
*Preconstruction site meeting	1	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050				\$1,050
*Earthwork - mobilization		ψ.,σσσ	ψ.,σσσ	ψ1,000				ψ.,σσσ
to/from site	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000				\$5,000
*Earthwork - remove and		¥ - ,	+ - /	+ - ,				+ - /
regrade 10 check dam								
structures; fill incised gully								
features; place revetment at								
key stress locations (days)	15	\$5,000	\$75,000	\$75,000				\$75,000
*Water truck for dust								
abatement	10	\$800	\$8,000	\$8,000				\$8,000
*Transplant sod and willow at								
key locations	2	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000				\$10,000
*Final grading - all areas	2	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000				\$10,000
*Construction Supervision	23	\$1,050	\$24,150	\$24,150				\$24,150
Water control structure	2	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$6,000				\$6,000
Seed and application (acre)	50	\$125	\$6,250	\$3,125	\$3,125			\$6,250
Road maintenance			\$5,000	\$5,000				\$5,000
Offsite water - solar pump	1	\$7,820	\$7,820	\$7,820				\$7,820
Water trough	3	\$400	\$1,200	\$1,200				\$1,200
Polyethylene plastic water pipe								
(200' roll)	28	\$220	\$6,160	\$6,160				\$6,160
Pipe fittings			\$4,070	\$4,070				\$4,070
Water system (transport to site								
and installation)			\$5,250	\$5,250				\$5,250
Direct Costs Subtotal:			\$181,250	\$178,125	\$3,125			\$181,250

Budget for work by \*StreamWise, stream assessment and restoration consultant, Mount Shasta, CA

SECTION TWO				Pro	ject Cost	Breakdov	wn	
					Year	Year	Year	
		Unit	Total	Year One	Two	Three	Four	
Administrative Costs	Units	Cost	Cost	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	(2016)	Total
Grant Administration			\$5,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000		\$5,000
Grant Administration								
Overhead (22%)			\$1,100	\$440	\$440	\$220		\$1,100
Direct Costs Overhead (6%)			\$10,875	\$10,688	\$188			\$10,875
Administrative Subtotal:			\$16,975	\$13,128	\$2,628	\$1,220	\$0	\$16,975

SNC Total Grant Request:	\$198,225	\$191,253	\$5,753	\$1,220	\$0	\$198,225

### SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

SECTION THREE			·	Pro	ject Cost	Breakdo	wn	
					Year	Year	Year	
		Unit	Total	Year One	Two	Three	Four	
Other Project Contributions	Units	Cost	Cost	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	(2016)	Total
Personnel (FWS) -								
implementation and monitoring			\$10,985	\$5,492	\$3,662	\$1,098	\$732	\$10,985
Personnel (Landowner) -								
implementation and monitoring			¢4.750	¢4.050	Ф <b>7</b> 00			¢4.750
•			\$1,750	\$1,050	\$700 \$235	\$235	\$235	\$1,750
Travel (FWS)			\$1,294	\$588		<b>Φ23</b> 3	<b>Φ</b> 233	\$1,294
Travel (Landowner)	450	<b>0450</b>	\$820	\$491	\$329			\$820
Materials - juniper (ea)	150	\$150	\$22,500	\$22,500				\$22,500
Materials - rock (ton)	200	\$30	\$6,000	\$6,000				\$6,000
Fencing - materials (FWS)			\$20,000	\$20,000				\$20,000
Fencing - materials								
(Landowner)			\$4,120	\$4,120				\$4,120
Fencing - installation								
(Landowner)			\$16,640	\$16,640				\$16,640
Fence markers (FWS)			\$3,000	\$3,000				\$3,000
Water system design								
(FWS/Landowner)			\$3,500	\$3,500				\$3,500
1600 Permit Application Fee								
(FWS)			\$1,673	\$1,673				\$1,673
401 Permit Application Fee			. ,					
(FWS)			\$640	\$640				\$640
Total Other Contributions:			\$92,922	\$85,695	\$4,925	\$1,334	\$968	\$92,922

BUDGET SUMMARY				Pro				
					Year	Year	Year	
		Unit	Total	Year One	Two	Three	Four	
	Units	Cost	Cost	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	(2016)	Total
Total Other Contributions:			\$92,922	\$85,695	\$4,925	\$1,334	\$968	\$92,922
SNC Total Grant Request:			\$198,225	\$191,253	\$5,753	\$1,220	\$0	\$198,225
Project Total:								\$291,147

### **Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project: Restrictions/Agreements**

There are no property restrictions or encumbrances that could adversely impact project completion. The landowner has signed a Landowner Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that includes a written commitment to provide access for completing project work and necessary follow-up through the term of the FWS-Landowner agreement (September 2022). This agreement is attached to this application under 'Additional submission requirements – Land Tenure Documents'.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (applicant) has commenced acquisition of required permits. See page eight for status of each.

### **Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project: Restrictions/Agreements**

There are no property restrictions or encumbrances that could adversely impact project completion. The landowner has signed a Landowner Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that includes a written commitment to provide access for completing project work and necessary follow-up through the term of the FWS-Landowner agreement (September 2022). This agreement is attached to this application under 'Additional submission requirements – Land Tenure Documents'.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (applicant) has commenced acquisition of required permits. See page eight for status of each.

То: 🗌	Office of Planning and Research	From: (Public Agency) Honey Lake Valley RCD				
	1400 Tenth Street, Room 121	170 Russell Avenue, Suite C				
	Sacramento, CA 95814	Susanville, CA 96130				
<b>7</b>	County Clerk					
	County of Lassen					
	220 S Lassen Street, Ste 5	RECEIVED				
	Susanville, CA 96130	COT				
		OCT 1 7 2012				
Project Tit	le: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration I					
Project Lo	cation - Specific: 40.566372 (latitude), -120	.428696 (longitude)				
~9 miles r	north from intersection of County Road A27	and Belfast Road Lassen County, California 96130				
Project Loc	cation - City: Susanville (closest city)	Project Location - County: Lassen				
Description	of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Pro	pject:				
ranch white mil	the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project (Project) is to increase proving watershed health and providing benefits to wildlife in an upprestoration of 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek and approximately 50 acres	management efficiency of cattle and water resources on the Pete's Valley pper reach of the Susan River Watershed in Lassen County, California. The sof wetlands and wet meadows.				
Direct outcomes meadow and wet	of the project include restored groundwater hydrology; improved tlands habitat for Greater sage-grouse, migratory waterfowl and sh	forage for livestock production, and public benefits through enhanced wet orebirds, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and a variety of other wildlife species.				
Name of Pu	ıblic Agency Approving Project: Honey Lake	e Valley Resource Conservation District				
Name of Pe	erson or Agency Carrying Out Project: Honey	Lake Valley Resource Conservation District				
Exempt Sta	tus: (check one)					
	terial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);					
	red Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));					
	gency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));					
	orical Exemption. State type and section number:					
	ory Exemptions. State code number:					
Reasons wh	ny project is exempt: 15307 Actions by Regulatory Ager and 15301 Existing Facilities	ncies for Protection of Natural Resources; 15304 Minor Alterations to Land;				
The U.S. Fish ar regulatory proce coordinating wit Historic Preserva will not involve	ad Wildlife Service (FWS) is a primary cooperator and partial fund ss required by the FWS involves procedures for protection of the e th federal and state entities to obtain required clearances and permi- tation Office) (15307). The Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project	ter for implementing this habitat enhancement and restoration project. The environment that include complying with NEPA and ESA as well as ts (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State involves minor alteration in the condition of land, water, and vegetation and ettives of the project are to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and streamflow				
Lead Agenc Contact Per	Tim Kaasay	a Code/Telephone/Extension:530-260-0934				
If filed by apple 1. Attach 2. Has a N	plicant: certified document of exemption finding. Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency a					
☑ Si	gned by Lead Agency Date received fo	r filing at OPR:				
☐ Si	gned by Applicant					

### NEPA COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

	te: California Federal Financial Assistance Grant/Agreement/Amendment Number: ant/Project Name: Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project								
	oposal√		is not completely covered by categorical exclusion B3 in 516 DM 2, Appendix 1 ; and/or 516 DM 6,						
(check	(V) one	e) (Rei	view proposed activities. An appropriate categorical exclusion must be identified <u>before</u> completing the remainder of the Checklist. If a categorical exclusion cannot be identified, or the proposal cannot meet the qualifying criteria in the categorical exclusion, or an extraordinary circumstance applies (see below), an EA must be prepared.)						
Extraor Will Th Yes	rdinary nis Propo <u>No</u>	Circu osal (a	the categorical exclusion, or an extraorantary circumstance applies (see below), an EA must be prepared.)  Simstances:  Scheck ( $\checkmark$ ) yes or no for each item below):						
	<b>4</b>	1. 2.	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. Have significant adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas under Federal ownership or jurisdiction.						
	<b>√</b>	3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of						
	N.	4.	available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.						
	1	5.	Have a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.						
	1	6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.						
	<b>4</b>	7.	Have significant adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, or a consulting party under 36 CFR 800.						
	<b>4</b>	8.	Have significant adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.						
	<b>4</b>	9.	Have the possibility of violating a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.						
		10.	Have the possibility for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).						
	<b>4</b>	11.	Have the possibility to limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious						
	<b>√</b>	12.	practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). Have the possibility to significantly contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).						
(If any o	of the abo	ove ex	traordinary circumstances receive a " <u>Yes" check</u> ( ), an EA must be prepared.) s grant/project includes additional information supporting the Checklist.						
	rences/A								
State Au	thority (	Concu	rrence: Date:						
(NEPA)	and other e determ is a cate docume is not co	er stat ined to egoric entation omple	(with financial assistance signature authority, if applicable)  Intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act  autes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record  that the grant/agreement/amendment:  cal exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1 and/or 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. No further NEPA  on will therefore be made.  etely covered by the categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1 and/or 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.  be prepared.						
Service	signatur	re app	oroval:						
	RO or WO Environmental Coordinator: Date: Staff Specialist, Division of Federal Assistance: Date: (or authorized Service representative with financial assistance signature authority)								
		(or a	and the second to the second the second seco						

FWS Form 3-2185 Revised 02/2004

### Description of NEPA Compliance: Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project

This proposal is completely covered by categorical exclusion B3 in 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will complete required documentation and obtain required signatures prior to full application deadline of 5:00 p.m. October 22, 2012.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The project does NOT meet any of the following and is, therefore, covered by a categorical exclusion.

- Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
- Have significant adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas under Federal ownership or jurisdiction.
- Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].
- Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
- Have a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
- Have significant adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, or a consulting party under 36 CFR 800.
- Have significant adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
- Have the possibility of violating a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- Have the possibility for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- Have the possibility to limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
- Have the possibility to significantly contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Mr. Jim Branham Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project

The Pete's Valley lek complex, located within Pete's Valley, has been active during most survey years since its discovery in 1963. The complex consists of one principle lek and two known satellite leks on public land managed by the Eagle Lake Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. The adjacent private land along Pete's Creek provides important nesting and brood rearing habitat for hens utilizing the lek complex. Pete's Creek historically provided valuable mule deer fawning habitat.

Recent literature has concluded barbwire fence in close proximity to lek sites may result in significant mortality of sage-grouse. Sage-grouse collisions may be reduced by increasing the visibility of fencing with reflective tags tied around the wire strands. Cattle grazing can significantly reduce vegetation cover and forage availability in riparian systems.

Excluding cattle from 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek will allow riparian vegetation to recover from historic overgrazing, providing valuable brood rearing habitat for sage-grouse. A recent research project found brood rearing habitat availability was limited within the local sage-grouse population management unit. Planting willows within the fence enclosure will protect willow shoots from cattle grazing and accelerate willow restoration. Willows provide valuable cover for mule deer does during the fawning season. Published scientific studies have found low fawn recruitment may limit mule deer populations.

I support the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project's proposed restoration of 50 acres of wet meadow to provide valuable brood rearing habitat for sage-grouse and fawning habitat for mule deer. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (530) 254-6808.

Sincerely,

Brian Ehler

**Environmental Scientist** 

California Department of Fish and Game

728-600 Fish and Game Rd

Wendel, CA 96136

# County of Lassen

# **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

ROBERT F. PYLE
District 1
JIM CHAPMAN
District 2
LARRY WOSICK
District 3
BRIAN D. DAHLE
District 4
JACK HANSON



County Administration Office 221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4 Susanville, CA 96130 Phone: 530-251-8333 Fax: 530-251-2663

October 19, 2012

Jim Branham, Executive Director Sierra Nevada Conservancy 11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205 Auburn, CA 95603

Subject:

Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project

Lassen County, California

Dear Mr. Branham,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project, being submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program. A couple of months ago, Susan Abele from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contacted me to discuss the project and asked whether or not I would endorse the project proposal. As I mentioned to her, the project is of keen interest to me for two main reasons: it supports the agricultural heritage of Lassen County and because of the extraordinary value that functioning riparian habitats provide to the desert ecosystems of our region.

As both a local rancher and County Supervisor, I support activities that help to sustain the agricultural heritage of our community. The Pete's Valley Ranch is part of a multi-generational family ranching operation that has contributed to the economy and agricultural heritage of Lassen County for multiple decades. Their continued success now rests in the hands of the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of the family that is stepping up to take over responsibility for the family's ranching operation. I personally support efforts that preserve and enhance agricultural operations in Lassen County and recognize that these efforts go hand-in-hand with managing working landscapes for watershed health and healthy wildlife populations.

Lassen County also boasts recreational values for fishing, hunting, and other outdoor pursuits. Within our desert landscapes, I believe riparian areas have extraordinary value. Although public use is limited on the Pete's Valley Ranch, it is an asset to its surrounding landscape. Restoration activities proposed in this project will provide benefits for public enjoyment and use across the watershed, a majority of which is administered for the public by the Bureau of Land Management.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts regarding the Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jack Hanson
District 5 Supervisor



October 17, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy 2950 Riverside Drive Susanville, CA 96130

To Whom It May Concern:

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) would like to express our strong support of the Upper Pete's Creek Restoration Project. The project's efforts to restore 1.3 miles of Pete's Creek and 50 acres of wet meadow and wetland habitat to benefit migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and upland game bird species is squarely aligned with the priorities of the IWJV.

The IWJV furthers bird habitat conservation through diverse public-private partnerships in eleven western states. As one of 18 U.S. Habitat Joint Ventures, the IWJV operates as a self-directed partnership to implement national and international bird conservation plans across 495 million acres of some of the most diverse and intact landscapes in the Intermountain West. The IWJV conservation niche is realized by working at the landscape scale to catalyze conservation action, bringing partners together to invest financially and strategically in habitat conservation, and defining and communicating what landscape change means to birds.

Specifically, the IWJV is in the process of completing the 2012 Implementation Plan which identifies Southern Oregon/Northeastern California (SONEC), as one of two continentally significant areas for spring migrating waterfowl in the Intermountain West (the other area is the Great Salt Lake). Upper Pete's Creek falls within this continentally significant focal area for the IWJV and its partners. The Implementation Plan identifies a habitat objective of maintaining 64,700 acres of shallow, open wetland habitat on private lands to support spring migrating waterfowl at continental population goals. The project would contribute to specific wetland restoration objectives identified in the plan, while also supporting shorebird and waterbird needs. The IWJV has also prioritized sagebrush steppe conservation and efforts to conserve Greater Sage-grouse to ensure the species is not listed under the Endangered Species Act, which is an additional key outcome of the project. Lastly, the project exemplifies the spirit of conservation partnership and opportunities to work with landowners in the region to find win-win solutions to keeping ranches viable and address threats to natural resources through beneficial restoration and land

management practices for migratory birds. Projects like these yield important biological and agricultural returns for working lands in the Intermountain West.

Thank you for considering a strategic investment in this project and your commitment to meeting the triple bottom line of environment, economy, and society in the Sierra Nevada Region. We look forward to collaborating with you in the future. Should you need further details, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Dave Smith

**IWJV** Coordinator

Du Sit

406-329-3120

dave\_w\_smith@fws.gov

## Upper Pete's Creek Habitat Restoration Project: Long-Term Management and Sustainability

Upon reestablishment of the native vegetation and stream function of Pete's Creek (1-2 years post project implementation), the Ranch will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), likely in coordination with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service, to develop a grazing plan for the fenced in riparian area. When a grazing management system is implemented, objectives will be set (e.g., minimum stubble height of grass) and cattle will be managed to stay within these objectives. The FWS will work with the Ranch to set grazing objectives that are sustainable for both the operation and the ecosystem and monitor utilization in years subsequent to project implementation.

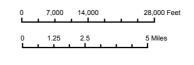
The grazing plan will be the long-term management plan that guides the ranch and outlines sustainability. Grazing levels will be determined by the vegetation that is present on the site after restoration activities and, therefore, cannot be accurately completed and provided at this time.

# **Project Location: Upper Pete's Valley Habitat Restoration Project**



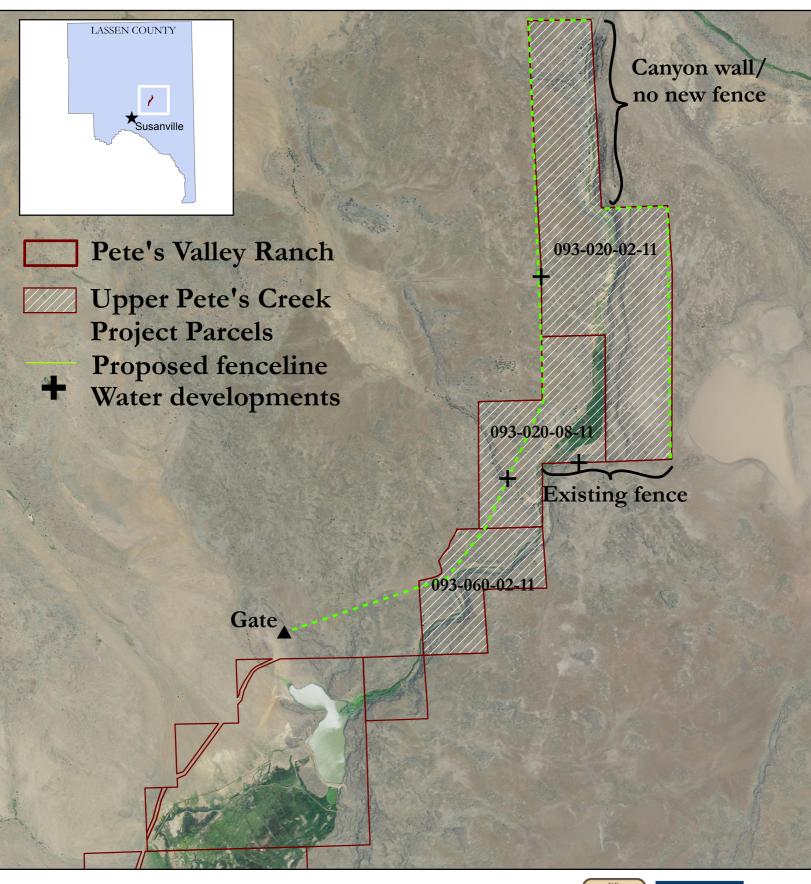
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Map Date: 10-18-2012 File: Project Location Map.mxd



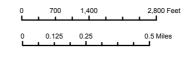


Parcel Map: Upper Pete's Valley Habitat Restoration Project



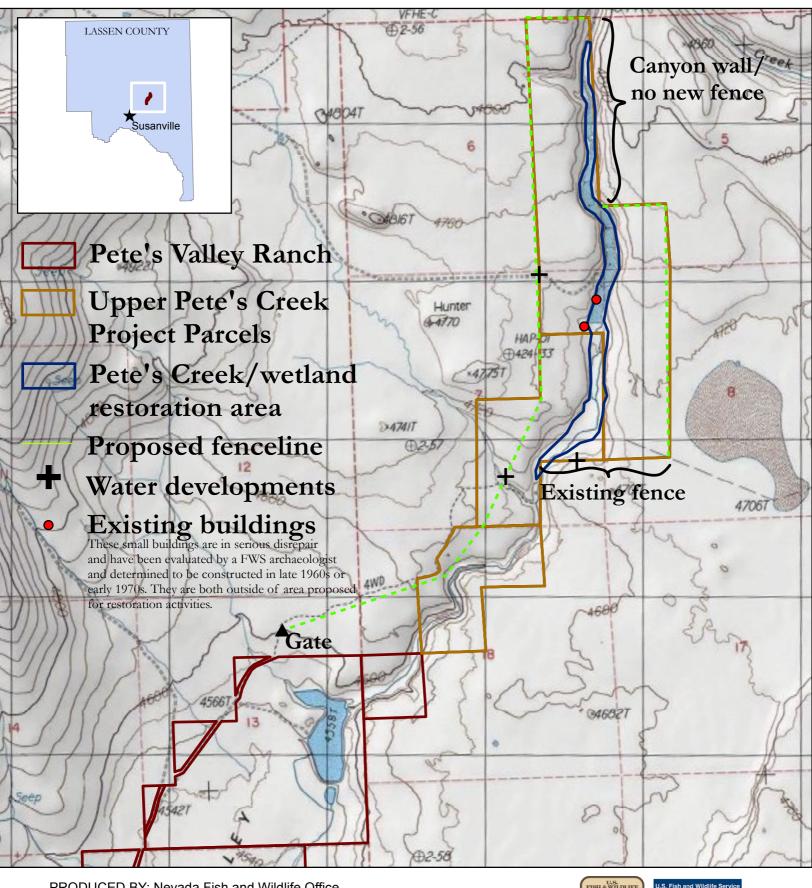
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Map Date: 10-18-2012 File: Parcel Map.mxd



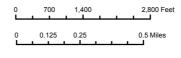


# **Topographic Map: Upper Pete's Valley Habitat Restoration Project**



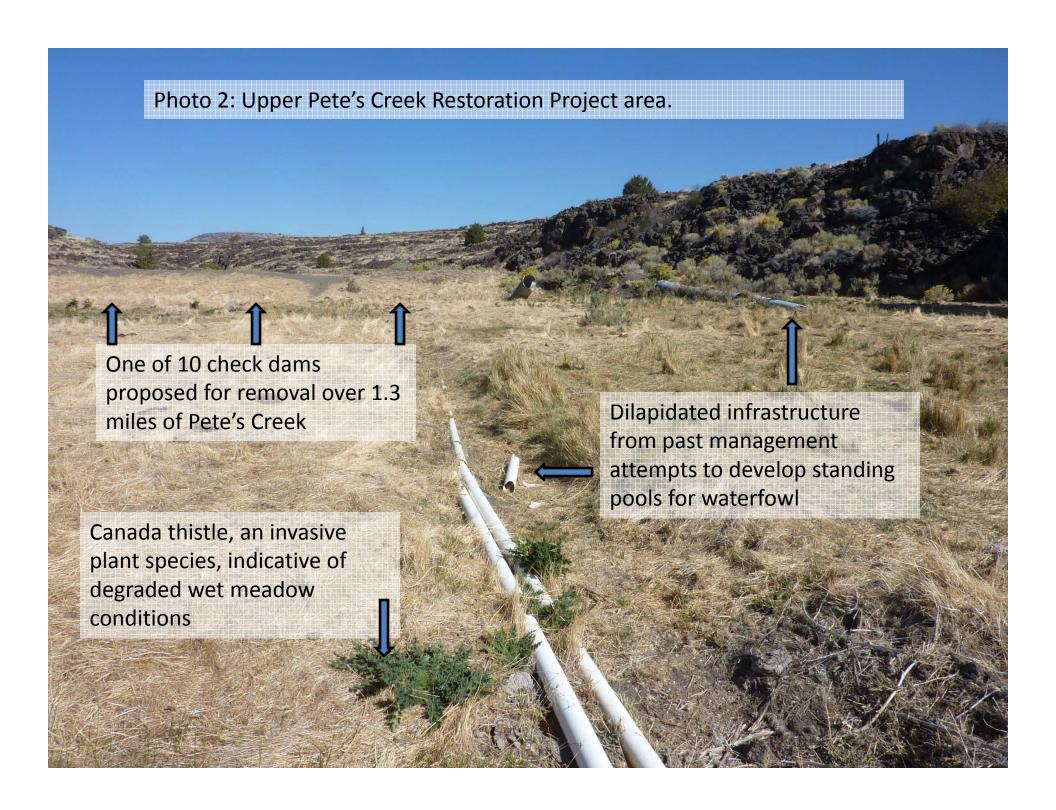
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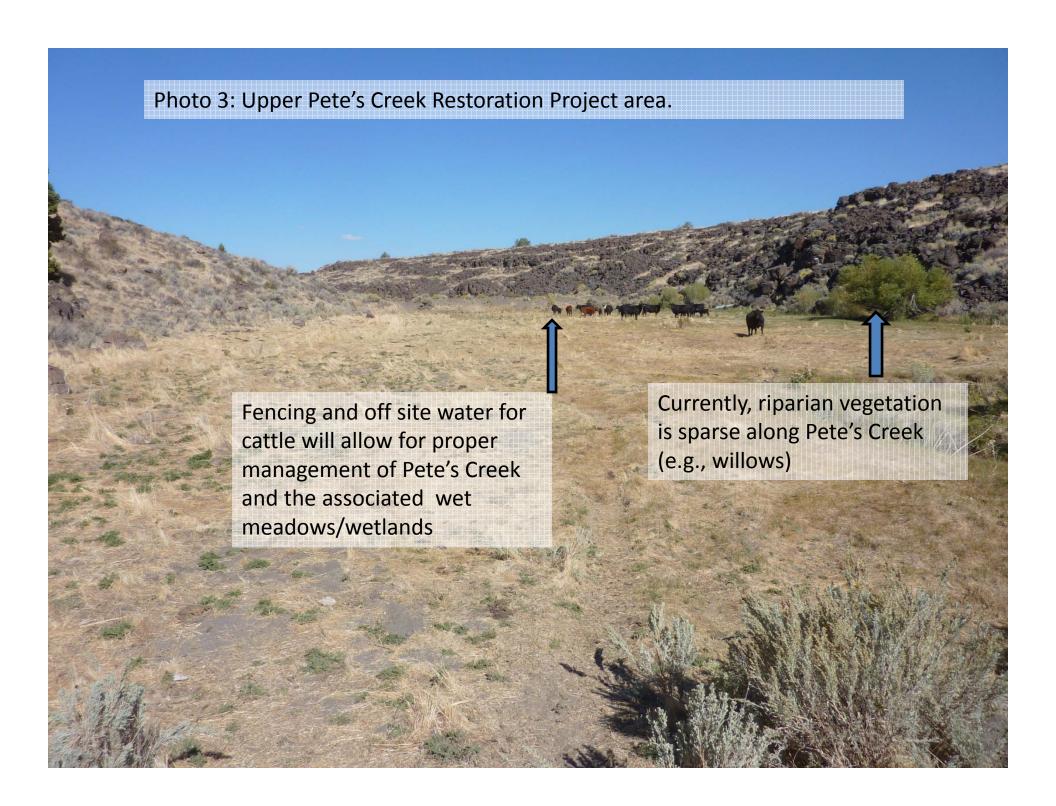
Map Date: 10-18-2012 File: Topographic Map.mxd



















DCN: F12AC00998

Project Name: Pete's Valley Habitat Restoration Project

Agreement Expiration Date: July 15, 2022

CDFA #: 15.631

### PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDOWNER AGREEMENT

This agreement between Darrell Wood, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is entered into pursuant to authority contained in section 1 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661, section 7 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, 16 U.S.C. 3771 et seq., and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3771 et seq.). This project was selected for funding because the Landowner shares a common objective with the Service to restore habitat for the benefit of Federal trust species on private lands, and the project supports priority actions identified in the Pacific Southwest Region Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Strategic Plan.

I, Darrell Wood, hereby agree to participate with the Service in conducting certain land management practices on lands owned by me in Lassen County, State of California described as follows: within approximately 1,600 acres of habitat located in Pete's Valley (Township 31N, Range 14E, Sections 5,6,7,8, and 18; Township 31N, Range 13E, Sections 13, 24, 26, and 35).

In signing this agreement, the Landowner joins as a participant in a wildlife habitat improvement program and grants to the Service authority to complete the habitat improvement project, or to personally carry out management activities with financial or material support as described in attached Project Work Plan. Any donation of supplies, equipment, or direct payment from the Service to the Landowner for carrying out the habitat improvements is also included in the Project Work Plan. The activities conducted pursuant to this agreement are not to replace, supplement or otherwise contribute to any mitigation or compensation that may be required of the Landowner, or other parties, as a result of any mandated requirements.

The term of this agreement will be for 10 years beginning the date of the last signature to this agreement and ending July 15, 2022. This agreement may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the parties. It may be terminated by either party upon 30 days advance written notice to the other party(ies). However, if the Landowner terminates the agreement before its expiration, or if the Landowner should materially default on these commitments, then the Landowner agrees to reimburse the Service prior to final termination for the prorated costs of all habitat improvements placed on the land through this agreement. For these purposes, the total cost of the habitat improvements to the United States is agreed to be \$20,000.

### Landowner:

The Landowner guarantees ownership of the above-described land and warrants that there are no outstanding rights which interfere with this Landowner Agreement.

The Landowner will notify the Service of planned or pending changes in ownership. A change of ownership shall not change the terms of this agreement. The agreement and terms shall be in effect on the described land for the period of the agreement.

The Landowner agrees to allow access (with advance notice) to the Service to implement the project described in the work plan, and to monitor project success. The Landowner retains all rights to control trespass and retains all responsibility for taxes, assessments, and damage claims.

At the end of the term, the bitat improvement project will become sole property and complete responsibility of the Landowner. There shall be no obligation to any of the agencies of the agreement after the term of the agreement has expired.

The Landowner will be responsible for securing any necessary permits. Technical advice and support will be provided by participating agencies in the application for the permit(s). The Landowner agrees to identify the Service's contribution to the project during public presentations, reports, or other information published about the project, as appropriate.

#### Service:

The Service will provide ongoing technical assistance throughout the entire agreement term to support any actions needed to ensure that the project functions as intended.

The Service, its agents, or assignees reserve the right to enter the land at reasonable times for Landowner habitat management purposes and to inspect completed work.

The Service assumes no liability for damage or injury other than that caused by its own negligence, on the above acreage. The Service does not assume jurisdiction over the premises by this agreement.

The Service is prohibited by law from making obligations that exceed available funds and, therefore, the Service can do only that work which is funded. In the event funds are not available to do the habitat improvement project work within the period of time or in the manner prescribed in the special provisions, the Service will advise the Landowner of that fact.

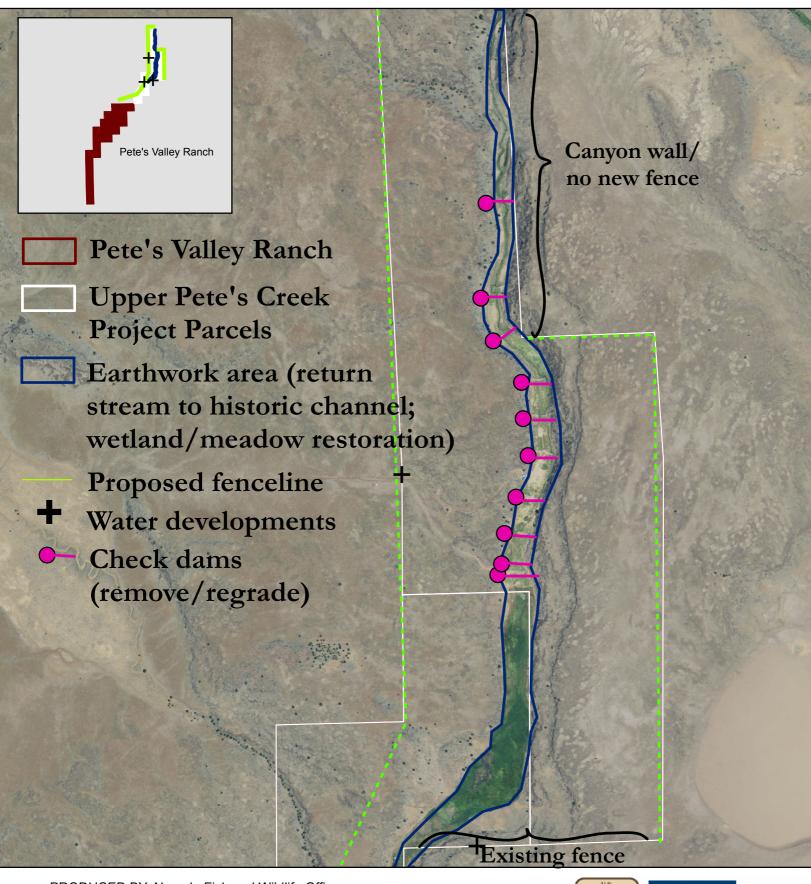
**Spatial Information Sharing:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, permission must be obtained from the Landowner before any personal information can be released. The only information that can be shared is payment information that is authorized by law. Therefore, Landowner consent is requested to allow for sharing of spatial information about this project solely with conservation cooperators providing technical or financial assistance with the restoration, enhancement or management of fish and wildlife habitat.

	I, the Landowner, consent to having spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators
	I, the Landowner, do NOT wish to have any spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators
Darrell	E. Wood, Landowner Date
Susan A	9 14 2012 Abele Date
	vation Partnerships Coordinator
Idr	ad lot 9/14/12

Date

Ted Koch, Nevada State Supervisor

# Site Plan: Upper Pete's Valley Habitat Restoration Project



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Map Date: 10-18-2012 File: Site Plan.mxd

